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## **“Daniel Pearl Music Festival Comes to Nairobi”**



*PAS staff at Daniel Pearl Music Festival*

On October 31, over 200 young people braved searing heat and drenching rain to listen to some of Kenya’s hottest new bands perform at the Daniel Pearl Music Festival sponsored by the U.S. Embassy and “1 FM” radio at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute in Nairobi. The rapidly changing weather did not dampen the audience’s enthusiasm for the Afro-jazz music, poetry, and over stuffed burgers on offer at the festival. The highlight of the festival might have been a female jazz trumpeter from Nakuru, who wowed the crowd with her vocal and instrumental agility.

Between music sets, the Master of Ceremonies acknowledged the U.S. Embassy’s role in the event and discussed Daniel Pearl and his legacy. Daniel Pearl (October 10, 1963 – February 1, 2002) was an [American journalist](#) who was kidnapped and killed by [Al-Qaeda](#) in Pakistan. At the time of his [kidnapping](#), Daniel served as the [South Asia](#) Bureau Chief of the [Wall Street Journal](#) and was based in [Mumbai, India](#). He went to [Pakistan](#) as part of an investigation into the alleged links between [Richard Reid](#) (the "shoe bomber") and Al-Qaeda. He was subsequently [beheaded](#) by his captors.

A collection of Daniel’s writings ([At Home in the World](#)) was published posthumously in 2002, demonstrating his skill as a writer and his eye for quirky stories—many of which appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*. Six of these stories were adapted by composer Russell Steinberg into an album: *Stories from My Favorite Planet*, a trio for violin, piano, and reader.

Daniel’s family and friends founded The *Daniel Pearl Foundation* to continue Pearl's mission. He was a talented musician who joined musical groups in every community in which he lived.

[Daniel Pearl World Music Days](#) uses the universal language of music to encourage fellowship across cultures and build a platform for "Harmony for Humanity." Concerts have been held worldwide since 2002, with over 1,500 concerts in over 60 countries.

Facebook comments following the festival summed up the mood of the day. "It was a blast! To all who came and stuck through the sunshine and rain, cheers! You rock." "Will be there for the next one for sure."